(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement between Government and Railwaymen's Unions

3653. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unions of Railwaymen have critisized Government for not implementing the 1997 agreement reached between Government and the employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the agreement;

(c) whether Railwaymen's unions have expressed opposition to privatisation of catering and station maintenance work; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision to privatize the catering services on Indian Railways was taken in the year 1992. The organized labour have been taken into confidence in this regard from the very beginning and their opposition to the move and demand for security to the employees of the departmental units had been deliberated with them at great length. Ministry of Railways have assured job security of the personnel working in Catering Department including Commission bearers/vendors. Necessary action has been taken to absorb them in catering as well as in other departments of Indian Railways.

As regards station maintenance work, there is, at present, no move to privatize the same.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

3654. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways have received any proposal from Gujarat Government for conversion of MG/NG lines into B.G; if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Railways on them;

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has any plan of taking up any

gauge conversion projects in the State through private funding; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether gauge conversion of Dhranghadhra-Kuda rail line is to be done on cost sharing basis; if so, by when the said work would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The position of demands received from the State Government for conversion of MG/NG lines in Gujarat State during last three years is given as under:—

Project	*Action Taken*
(i) Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur	(i) Work on gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur is already included in the Budget and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
(ii) Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Sammi-Dahej	(ii) Survey for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Dahej has already been completed as a part of the proposed 3rd line between Ahmedabad and Virar. Gauge conversion of this section will be considered at the time of taking up the 3rd line work in this area depending upon availability of resources.
(iii) Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj-Naliya	(iii) Work on Gandhidham-Bhuj is already completed and commissioned. A survey for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Naliya has also been completed. In view of acute constraint of resources and lower priority indicated by Defence authorities, this proposal could not be considered for the present.
(iv) Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himatnagar	(iv) A survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Udaipur is in progress. Further consideration of this project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.
(v) Gauge conversion of Dabhoi-Miyagam	(v) Survey for gauge conversion of Dabhoi-Miyagam has already been completed as a part

Project	*Action Taken*
	of the proposed 3rd line between Ahmedabad and Virar. However, this line could not be considered as part of 3rd line as the alignments on Western side of Virar-Ahmedabad broad gauge line has been found most suitable for the 3rd line on operational consideration.
(vi) Gauge conversion of Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar & its extension upto Dhar	(vi) Survey for gauge conversion of Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar with extension to Dhar is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.
(vii) Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Vijapur	(vii) On Ahmedabad-Vijapur section, work on gauge conversion of Kalol-Adraj Moti is alredy included in the Budget as a part of Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol new line project. This will provide BG connection between Ahmedabad and Adraj moti, as a BG line already exists between Ahmedabad and Kalol.

(b) Yes, Sir. Plans have been finalized for obtaining private participation in gauge conversion project of Surendranagar-Rajula City with extension to Pipavav. It is also proposed to obtain private funding for gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Palanpur and Mahesana-Virmgam sections.

(c) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda section is being done on cost sharing basis. This work is in progress and expected to be completed during 2001-02.

Overaged assets in Railways

3655. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of overaged assets with Indian Railways;

(b) how Government propose to renew/replace these overaged assets;

(c) what is the estimated cost for this purpose; and